

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A physical therapy apparatus configured to stretch a hamstring in a leg of a patient, comprising:

a) a substantially vertical seat back maintainable in a substantially vertical position and rearwardly inclinable therefrom, and configured to receive a torso of the patient;

b) a leg board, pivotally coupled to the seat back with the seat back extending above the leg board, selectively adjustable and maintainable at discrete obtuse angular orientations between approximately 150 to 90 degrees with respect to the seat back, and configured to receive the leg of the patient; and

c) means for securing the leg of the patient to the leg board to maintain the legs in a substantially straight configuration.

2. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
means for selectively adjusting and maintaining the angular orientation between the seat back and the leg board.

3. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein the means for selectively adjusting and maintaining the angular orientation includes:

an elongated threaded rod, coupled between the seat back and the leg board, rotatable with respect to the seat back and the leg board, and threadably engaging a threaded coupler secured to one of the seat back and the leg board such that rotating the rod causes the seat back and the leg board to move with respect to one another.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a tray, disposed in front of, and spaced-apart from, the seat back.
7. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a) a base, supporting the seat back and the leg board, configured to be disposed on a support surface;
b) the seat back having a lower end slidably engaging the base; and
c) the seat back being selectively oriented between i) a substantially vertical orientation, and ii) an inclined position in which the seat back forms an obtuse angle with respect to the support surface.
8. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a) a base, supporting the seat back and the leg board, configured to be disposed on a support surface;
b) at least one rail, associated with the base;
c) the seat back having a lower end slidably engaging the at least one rail; and
d) a support arm, extending between the seat back and the base, and being pivotally coupled to both the base and the seat back.
9. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the leg board extends substantially the entire length of the leg of the user.
10. (currently amended) A chair apparatus configured to stretch a hamstring in a leg of a patient, comprising:
a) a seat back maintainable in a substantially vertical position and rearwardly inclinable therefrom ~~from a substantially vertical position~~, and configured to receive a torso of the patient;
b) a leg board, pivotally coupled to the seat back, selectively adjustable and maintainable at discrete obtuse angular orientations between approximately 150 to 90

degrees with respect to the seat back, and configured to receive the leg of the patient;

c) the leg board extending substantially the entire length of the leg of the user and the seat back extending above the leg board;

d) a knee strap configured to secure the leg of the patient to the leg board to maintain the leg in a substantially straight configuration; and

e) means for selectively adjusting and maintaining ~~an~~ the angular orientation between the seat back and the leg board.

11. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10, wherein the means for selectively adjusting and maintaining the angular orientation includes:

an elongated threaded rod, coupled between the seat back and the leg board, rotatable with respect to the seat back and the leg board, and threadably engaging a threaded coupler secured to one of the seat back and the leg board such that rotating the rod causes the seat back and the leg board to move with respect to one another.

12. (canceled).

13. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10, wherein the seat back is substantially vertical.

14. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:

a tray, disposed in front of, and spaced-apart from, the seat back.

15. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:

a) a base, supporting the seat back and the leg board, configured to be disposed on a support surface;

b) the seat back having a lower end slidably engaging the base; and

c) the seat back being selectively oriented between i) a substantially vertical orientation, and ii) an inclined position in which the seat back forms an obtuse angle with respect to the support surface.

16. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 10, further comprising:
- a) a base, supporting the seat back and the leg board, configured to be disposed on a support surface;
 - b) at least one rail, associated with the base;
 - c) the seat back having a lower end slidably engaging the at least one rail; and
 - d) a support arm, extending between the seat back and the base, and being pivotally coupled to both the base and the seat back.
17. (currently amended) A method for stretching a hamstring of a leg of a patient, comprising the steps of:
- a) positioning the patient on an apparatus with a torso of the patient disposed against a seat back and a leg of the patient disposed against a leg board having a seat back and a leg board, the leg board being pivotally coupled together to the seat back and selectively adjustable and maintainable at discrete obtuse angular orientations between approximately 150 to 90 degrees with respect to the seat back, and the seat back being maintainable in a substantially vertical position extending above the leg board and rearwardly inclinable therefrom ~~with a torso of the patient disposed against the seat back and the leg of the patient disposed against the leg board;~~
 - b) securing the leg of the patient to the leg board in a substantially straight configuration;
 - c) selectively forming a desired initial obtuse angle between the seat back and the leg board, and thus the leg and torso of the patient, to stretch the hamstring of the leg of the patient; and
 - d) maintaining the desired obtuse angle for a predetermined initial period of time.
18. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
- a) reducing the angle between the seat back and the leg board, and thus the leg and torso of the patient, to a subsequent smaller angle; and
 - b) maintaining the subsequent smaller angle for another predetermined period of

time.

19. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the step of:
reducing the angle between the seat back and the leg board while the patient is disposed in the chair.

20. (canceled).

21. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the step of:
securing a waist of the patient adjacent a pivot point between the seat back and the leg board.

22. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the step of:
orienting the seat back, and thus the torso of the patient, in a substantially vertical orientation.

23. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising the step of:
providing a tray adjacent the seat back.

24. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the patient has cerebral palsy.